THE LEADING CAUSES OF CHAPTER HOUSE FIRES
(NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS OF 685 CHAPTER HOUSE FIRES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misuse of Electricity, Over Fusing</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careless Smoking and Match Disposal</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incendiary or Suspicious (Arson)</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen and Cooking Hazards</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defective Heating Devices or Chimneys</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous or Undetermined</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous Ignition</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Fireplaces and Sparks</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignition from Adjacent Buildings</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIFE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

LOCAL FIRE REGULATIONS
- Familiarize yourself with current local fire codes
- Seek fire department / insurance inspectors assistance
- Meet all fire safety recommendations without delay

FIRE / SAFETY INSPECTIONS
- Establish regular fire department inspections
- Perform monthly fire / safety inspections
- Familiarize yourself with safety systems each school term

FIRE DETECTION / ALARM SYSTEMS
- Install automatic “hard-wired” fire detection systems
- Install “central station monitored” fire alarm systems
- Regularly test and maintain all safety systems

FIRE DOORS / FLAMMABLES
- Install approved fire doors as recommended
- Prohibit “wedging open” of any fire doors
- Prohibit abuse of fire protection equipment
- Store flammables outside in well-ventilated areas

LIGHTING / EXITS
- Install automatic battery powered emergency lighting
- Install automatic battery powered lighted exit signs
- Equip all exits with emergency “crash bar openers”
- Keep all exit ways clear of any storage and clutter

REGULAR FIRE DRILL PROCEDURES
- Conduct fire drills each school term
- Post emergency evacuation plans in each room
- Post emergency phone numbers on each phone
- Designate specific / safe outside meeting place
- Immediately account for all house occupants / visitors

HEATING / ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS
- Schedule professional inspections each year
- Have repairs promptly performed by professionals
- Establish regular maintenance and service contracts

ELECTRICAL
- Do not overload circuits / use grounded (GFIC) outlets
- Do not use multi-outlet or frayed extension cords
- Prohibit the use of halogen light fixtures

CHAPTER HOUSE SECURITY
- Improve chapter house locks / install exterior lighting
- Provide supervision and security during vacant periods
- Establish fire / security inspection each night

KITCHEN / COOKING PROTECTION
- Regular professional cleaning of cooking areas
- Install / regularly service automatic fire suppression systems
- Regularly service / maintain portable fire extinguishers

CONTROL SMOKING
- Establish “NO SMOKING” rules in sleeping areas
- Designated smoking areas / provide proper receptacles
- Clean / inspect for hazards immediately after functions

SOCIAL EVENT CLEAN-UP / INSPECTIONS
- Use non-flammable party decorations
- Clean up immediately following all social events
- Check trash disposal areas / furniture for fire hazards

INSTALL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
- Sprinkler systems greatly reduce risks of death / injury
- Sprinkler systems reduce property damage by 50-66%
- Sprinkler systems save lives and reduce insurance costs

Copyright © 1999 James R. Favor